

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel) voted Thursday evening with colleagues to pass the Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations bill, which funds a wide range of federal agencies and programs for fiscal year 2010. The House version of the bill includes three important programs for the Central Coast. The Senate has not yet voted on the bill.

"I'm pleased this bill includes funding for important programs here on the Central Coast," Rep. Sam Farr said. "I am especially proud of the funds that I have secured in the past for the gang task force and I look forward to working with the committee to retain these funds as the bill moves through the legislative process."

Local projects included in the House version of the bill:

- The **Monterey County Street and Anti-Gang Project**, known locally as the gang task force, receives \$500,000. The task force is composed of officers from the Monterey County Sheriff's Department, Probation Department and DA's office; Salinas Police Department; and California Highway Patrol. Since 2005, Rep. Farr has secured \$3.4 million for the task force.
- The **California Bay Watershed Education and Training Program**, known as B-WET, receives \$2,500,000. B-WET is an education program administered by NOAA, with funds used for programs in California coastal counties from Marin to Ventura. These projects emphasize sustained, hands-on, environmental experiences that are aligned with academic learning standards.
- The **West Coast Governors Agreement on Ocean Health** receives \$500,000 in this bill. Those funds will be used to support implementation of the West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health Action Plan. Funds would be administered by NOAA and divided among the three states for implementation of the plan.

In addition to specific local projects, the legislation provides \$3.4 billion for state and local law enforcement and crime prevention grants, including \$802 million for the COPS program, \$529 million for the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant program and \$400 million for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program, which assists state and local governments with the costs of jailing undocumented immigrants who have committed crimes not related to their immigration status.

The bill also provides \$30.6 billion for investments in science, technology, and innovation, as well as \$2 billion to study global climate change. The House version of the bill also eliminates 11 programs and cuts funding for an additional 13 programs, resulting in a savings of \$1.3 billion.

The bill, which passed Thursday evening by a vote of 259-157, awaits Senate consideration. Once the Senate acts, the two versions will be reconciled, then sent to the president for signature. This is the first of 12 appropriations bills that will be considered by Congress.

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